

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-47 were pending. Claims 1, 45, and 46 have been amended. Reconsideration and Reexamination of pending claims 1-47 is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2006, the Examiner's claim rejections have been considered. Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

1. Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-29, 31, 32, 35, 36, and 40-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,828). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Hayward fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 45, and 46 in that Hayward fails to teach, describe, or suggest at least one element of each independent claim.

With respect to claim 1, Hayward fails to teach at least the step of making the current recommendation optionally available to be displayed as desired by the user. The sections of Hayward referenced by the Examiner does not teach, describe, or suggest an optionally displayable current recommendation. On the contrary, the limited teaching of Hayward on this subject is limited to displaying a recommendation after the user has answered all questions.

In addition, Hayward fails to teach, describe, or suggest the displaying of a screen set soliciting additional data where the screen set is dependent on and determined by the actions of a previous step (i.e. determining a recommendation by processing the input data through at least a portion of the algorithm). The Examiner contends that Figures 24-27 teach this feature due to a "back up" button shown in Figures 24-27. However, Figures 24-27 are not mentioned or described anywhere in the text of Hayward except in the Brief Description of Drawings. There are no numbered elements in these drawings, and Applicant requests that the Examiner provide specific reference as to how the back up buttons function and how they teach the claim element.

For similar reasons, Claims 45 and 46 are not anticipated by Hayward. In addition, Claim 45 includes a limitation that input and context sensitive information is available to assist the user in inputting input data. There is no teaching, description, or suggestion of such a claim element in Hayward.

2. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 30, 33, 343, 37, 38 and 39 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,574,828). These dependent claims, being allowable on an independent base claim, are themselves allowable.

CONCLUSION

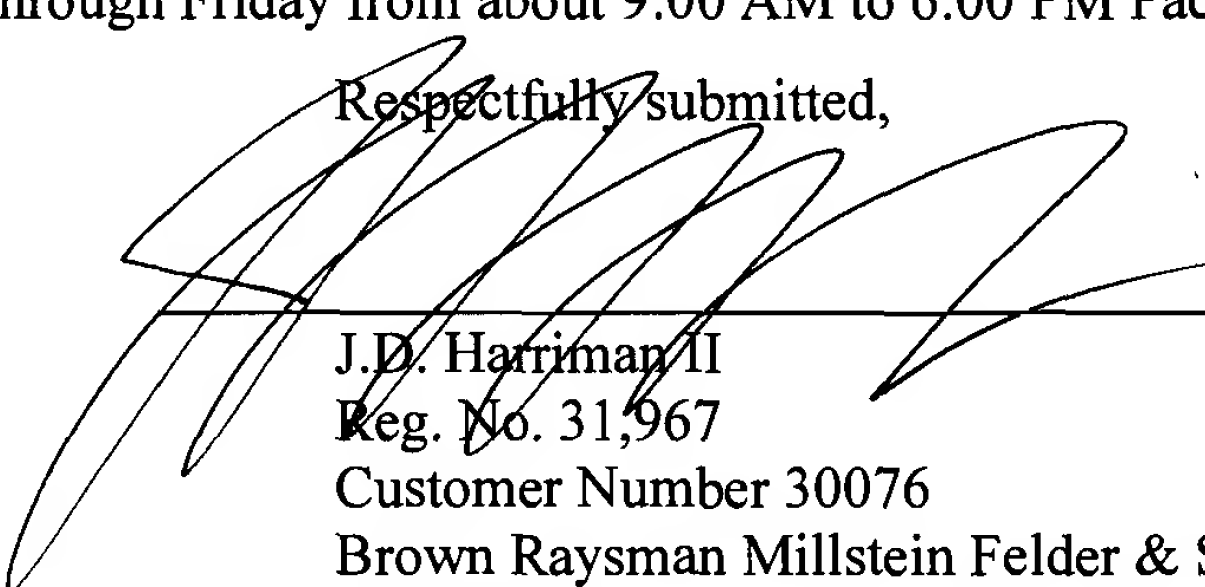
Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1-47 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

A Petition for Two-Month Extension of Time has been filed with this Amendment. No additional fee is believed due with the submission of this paper. However, if the Applicant is mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees from Deposit Account No. 502811.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8300. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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